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ACTION ARA-01RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B2

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00	EB-01
	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	LAB-04
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00
	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	RPE-00	/085W

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O 302055Z NOV 92
 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5798
 INFO ARA COLLECTIVE
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
 AMEMBASSY MADRID
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 12526

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, MARR, PINS, PHUM, VE
 SUBJECT: PEREZ SPEECH SUMMARIZES GOV LINE ON NOVEMBER 27
 MILITARY REBELLION

REF: (A) [REDACTED] (B) CARACAS 12489 B2

1. (U) SUMMARY: IN A SPEECH BROADCAST NATIONWIDE ON
 NOVEMBER 30, PRESIDENT PEREZ REITERATED SOME OF THE BASIC
 THEMES WHICH HE AND OTHER GOV SPOKEMEN HAVE MADE REGARDING
 THE NOV. 27 MILITARY REBELLION: THE PROMOTERS OF THE COUP
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 WERE MAINLY RADICAL LEFTIST ELEMENTS PLUS A SMALL NUMBER
 OF AIR FORCE OFFICERS; THE ARMY AND LARGE MAJORITY OF THE
 REST OF THE ARMED FORCES WERE LOYAL TO THE GOVERNMENT; THE
 OBJECTIVE OF THE PLOTTERS WAS THE DESTRUCTION OF
 VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY, NOT JUST THE CURTAILMENT OF HIS TERM
 AS PRESIDENT; AND THE VENEZUELAN POPULACE WERE NOT FOOLED
 BY THE REBELS, REPUDIATED THEIR USE OF VIOLENCE, AND
 THEREFORE DID NOT SUPPORT THE CALL TO RISE UP AGAINST THE
 GOVERNMENT. THE PRESIDENT ALSO UNDERLINED HIS
 DETERMINATION TO PROCEED WITH THE DECEMBER 6, 1992 STATE
 AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND URGED THAT UNINOMINAL VOTING FOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 29 NOV 2017
 DATE/CASE ID: 17 AUG 2006 200503206

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THE CONGRESS BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE 1993 NATIONAL ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND OF THE SPEECH

2. (U) ON SUNDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 29, PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ (CAP) MET WITH A GROUP OF SOME 40 DISTINGUISHED INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD CONSTITUTED THEMSELVES AS A NON-PARTISAN GROUP "IN DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY" AND HAD SOLICITED AN AUDIENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT TO EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY AND THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE NOVEMBER 27 FAILED COUP. THE CEREMONY AND CAP'S SPEECH TO THE GROUP WAS BROADCAST NATIONWIDE (SEE REF A FOR TEXT OF CAP'S SPEECH). THERE FOLLOWS BELOW A SYNOPSIS OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS HIGHLIGHTING SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL POINTS WHICH CAP (AND OTHER GOV SPOKESMEN) HAVE MADE OVER THE LAST THREE DAYS IN DESCRIBING THE MILITARY REBELLION.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ERRORS

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3. (U) PRESIDENT PEREZ SEEMED TO STRIKE A SOMEWHAT CONCILIATORY NOTE FROM THE START BY RECOGNIZING THE DIFFICULT SITUATION FACED BY VENEZUELANS IN RECENT YEARS, THE FACT THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY ERRORS, AND THAT ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN POLITICAL LIFE SHARE SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE PROBLEMS. HE WAS QUICK, HOWEVER, TO POINT OUT THAT THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RESORT TO VIOLENCE.

UNJUSTIFIABLE USE OF VIOLENCE

4. (U) CAP HIT HARD ON THE VIOLENCE USED BY THE REBELS, RECALLING THE EXECUTION-STYLE KILLINGS OF CHANNEL 8 REPORTERS WHEN THE TELEVISION CHANNEL WAS TAKEN OVER BY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY COMMANDOS THE MORNING OF NOV. 27, AS WELL AS THE DEATHS OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL HONOR GUARD AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AT VARIOUS MILITARY FACILITIES.

THE PLOTTERS AND THE LOYALTY OF THE ARMED FORCES

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5. (C) CAP ASSERTED THAT BOTH THE FEBRUARY 4 AND NOVEMBER 27 COUP ATTEMPTS WERE THE PRODUCTS OF A "A MAFIA, A MILITARY LODGE THAT WAS CONSTITUTED 10 YEARS AGO." THE NOV. 27 EFFORT WAS CARRIED OUT BY A SMALL SECTOR OF THE AIR FORCE (WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS RESIDUAL ELEMENTS OF THE THE MILITARY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FEB. 4 COUP ATTEMPT)

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TOGETHER WITH "EXTREMIST SECTORS, THE OLD GUERRILLAS FROM THE TIMES OF THE COMMUNIST SUBVERSION."

6. (C) PEREZ REPEATEDLY PRAISED THE LOYALTY AND DEMOCRATIC AVOCATION OF THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE VENEZUELAN ARMED FORCES, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ARMY.

REBELS SOUGHT DESTRUCTION OF DEMOCRACY

7. (U) CAP ARGUED THAT WHAT THE REBELS WANTED WAS NOT MERELY HIS RESIGNATION OR THE CURTAILMENT OF HIS TERM AS PRESIDENT, BUT THE DESTRUCTION OF VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY.

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THE PLOTTERS WERE MOTIVATED, PEREZ SAID, BY THE AMBITION FOR POWER. HE ALSO MADE REPEATED REFERENCES TO CHAVEZ IN CONNECTION WITH THE MILITARY UPRISING AND THE CIVIL-MILITARY COMMANDOS WHO TOOK OVER CHANNEL 8 TELEVISION.

8. (U) THE REBELS APPARENTLY BELIEVED THE "FABLE" THAT THE GENERAL POPULACE WAS SO ANXIOUS ABOUT THE CURRENT
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SITUATION THAT IT WOULD POUR OUT INTO THE STREETS TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT AND DESTROY DEMOCRACY. HOWEVER, THE PUBLIC, UPON SEEING THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE REBELS ON TELEVISION AND WATCHING THEIR ACTIONS, SAW THE "DISASTER" THAT THEY WOULD BRING UPON THE COUNTRY AND REJECTED THE REBELS AND REPUDIATED THEIR USE OF VIOLENCE.

ELECTIONS AND UNINOMIAL VOTING

9. (U) CAP CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY EMPHASIZING THAT THE SUSPENSION OF SOME CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES WOULD NOT IMPEDE THE HOLDING OF STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS ON DECEMBER 6, AND RECALLED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY MODIFIED THE SUSPENSIONS TO PERMIT POLITICAL ACTIVITY CONNECTED WITH THE ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE.

10. (U) PRESIDENT PEREZ ALSO MADE A PITCH FOR UNIVERSAL UNINOMINAL VOTING IN HIS SPEECH. COMMENTING ON NEXT YEAR'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS, CAP OBSERVED THAT THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ELECT DIRECTLY WHOMEVER THEY

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WISH TO BE PRESIDENT. HE THEN URGED THAT THE SYSTEM OF VOTING FOR INDIVIDUALS RATHER THAN FOR PARTY SLATES BE EXTENDED SO THAT IN THE FUTURE ALL MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS BE CHOSEN BY UNINOMINAL VOTING AS IS THE PRESIDENT.

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